

to
BEAU FRIEDLANDER

#54

June 10, 1999

0398.2

Dear Beau,

Your letter of May 21, p. 1, # 2. In Truth vs. Lies I want to avoid committing myself to any opinion as to whether ~~the~~ my cousin Nora has ever suffered from some degree of schizophrenia. I just want to present my brother's statement to the reader along with my aunt's contrary statement, without expressing any opinion of my own as to which of them is right.

The reason is that my brother's and mother's statements are not my only grounds for suspecting that Nora has, or has had, something wrong with her mentally other than depression. Back in the 1970's, not long before her accident, she wrote me a letter (the first one she'd ever sent me) that impressed me as something written by someone who had a few screws loose. At that time I wrote to my parents expressing doubts about Nora's sanity. Both of these letters have been preserved.

Besides that letter, certain facts about Nora's behavior, related to me by my mother in letters that have not been preserved, seemed to me to suggest that Nora had something wrong with her beyond just emotional problems or depression. Of course, information from my mother is not reliable, and as for the letter it's possible that Nora might have been drunk when she wrote it (my mother claimed that Nora suffered from severe alcoholism during that

period), so, as I said, I don't want to take a position one way or the other as to Nora's sanity.

For whatever it's worth, everyone in my immediate family felt that Nora's father, Bill Tuominen, was a bit peculiar; and, according to my father, Bill had two brothers both of whom committed suicide for no apparent reason while still relatively young.

Your letter of May 21, p. 2, #2. Judy Clarke has the hand-printed ms. of Truth vs. Lies. I'll write to her and ask her to send you a copy of a page of it. However, I suggest you should telephone Clarke, 509-624-7606, and discuss with her which page you want to have sent. You wouldn't want to get a page that has something that your lawyers want edited out, or on which I have made some important correction.

Your letter of May 21, p. 2, P.S. Already, ~~and~~ answered in one of my earlier letters. P.P.S. - no, I have not received the Spanish-English Dictionary. I'm beginning to suspect it's been lost in the mail.

Your letter of May 24, #2. Concerning Miller's desire to see the letters I've quoted, please consult my letter of March 27, #45, p. 8.

Your letter of May 24, #2 and #3. I repeat my suggestion that you should call off your dog with your printer until we have a text for the book that we can both agree on. I think we're going to have to take